

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /031 W

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R 210257Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2183

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 1150

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SN

SUBJ: REGIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER

BANGKOK FOR USIS AND RED

REF: A. TAI YU-LIN LTR TO FISCHMAN, FEB 26 (RELC 2105A/31)

B. STATE 047493 AND REPLIES

1. REFTTEL A WITH ENCLOSURES SENT CU/EA SPOONER FEB. 28. ADVISE
IF NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED.

2. WHILE RELC'S IMPACT IS LIMITED, HARD-HEADED GOS THINKS WELL
ENOUGH OF IT TO CONTINUE SUPPORT DESPITE INSISTENCE IT IS NOT RPT NOT
GETTING MONEY'S WORTH. JOE PIERCE LEAVES WITH MIXED FEELINGS BUT
WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT U.S. CONTINGENT AT RELC BE, IF ANYTHING,
INCREASED.

3. SINGAPORE PARTICIPATION IN RELC HAS BEEN GOOD. RELC DIRECTOR
CAME FROM GOVT. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, MAINTAINS CLOSE TIES THERE,
AND IS HIGHLY RESPECTED. MINED CANDIDATES FOR RELC ARE SELECTED
ON BASIS OF MERIT BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION. PREDICTABLY, THEY
RETURN AFTER RELC EXPERIENCE WITH UPWARD MOBILITY. WITH SINGAPORE
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EMPHASIS ON BI-LINGUALISM, THAT IS NOT RPT NOT BAD. ALSO DESIRABLE

IS OPPORTUNITY OF PARTICIPANTS TO RUB SHOULDERS WITH COLLEAGUES
OF OTHER SEAMEO COUNTRIES. REGIONAL HOBNOBBING BADLY NEEDED IN
SINGAPORE WHICH STILL HAS TENDENCY TO LEAP CONTINENTS FOR ITS TIES.

4. KUALA LUMPUR RESPONSE NOT RPT NOT SURPRISING AND UNDERScores
TENUOUS NATURE BUDDING SENSE OF REGIONALISM. MALAYSIA STILL REACTS
WITH APATHY TOWARD SINGAPORE-INITIATED PROJECTS (AND VICE VERSA)
AND HAS BEEN KNOWN NOT TO PARTICIPATE AT ALL, E.G. CEPTA.

5. ON BALANCE WE BELIEVE IT WORTHWHILE PROVIDE ANOTHER LINGUIST
TO RELC. ALTHOUGH RELC NOT RPT NOT AS EFFECTIVE AS COULD BE, IT
VERY MUCH IN OUR INTERESTS SUPPORT ITS CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND
MAINTAIN USG PRESENCE IN FORM OF FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR.

6. WE SUPPORT RELC DIRECTOR TAI'S REQUEST THAT LAUREL TAYLOR BE
CONSIDERED THE PRIME CANDIDATE TO REPLACE JOE PIERCE, ASSUMING SHE
HAS COMPLETED HER PH.D REQUIREMENTS.

7. ONE CHANGE WE WOULD RECOMMEND IS TO MAKE CLEAR TO RELC DIRECTOR
THAT U.S. PROFESSOR SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE DRAWN INTO ADMINISTRATIVE
CHORES. THIS COULD BE DONE BY STIPULATING CONDITION THAT ITEM (E)
OF MRS. TAI'S SUGGESTED JOB DESCRIPTION: "TO UNDERTAKE ANY OTHER
DUTIES IN THE PROFESSIONAL FIELD OR IN AREAS OF GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES
WHICH MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE DIRECTOR" BE DELETED. CRONK

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